

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 4 - 6, 8 and 8; cancel Claims 2, 3, and 7; and add Claims 10 - 13 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An adaptable filtration ~~apparatus~~ cassette for collecting particulates in liquid or gas comprising:

a ~~filtration cassette~~ housing having a central conduit, an inlet port, ~~a body~~, and an outlet port;

a substantially planar filtration medium positioned within said housing substantially adjacent to said outlet port; and

a removable substantially planar restrictor plate having a portal for localizing the utilized area of ~~a filter medium~~; said filtration medium, said planar restrictor plate and said filtration medium positioned to abut one another for localizing the utilized area of said filtration medium;

said adaptable filter cassette operating in a first and second mode, said first mode utilizes substantially all of the surface area of the filter medium; and said second mode incorporates said restrictor plate to localize particles to a portion of the filter medium.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The adaptable filtration apparatus ~~[[in]]~~ of Claim 1 wherein the restrictor plate is incorporated into the body of the filtration cassette.

5. (Currently Amended) The adaptable filtration apparatus ~~[[in]]~~ of Claim 1 wherein the restrictor plate includes more than one portal.

6. (Currently Amended) The adaptable filtration apparatus ~~[[in]]~~ of Claim 1 wherein the restrictor plate ~~is characterized by replicate portals~~ includes two portals, each of said two portals being substantially rectangular and having dimensions between 1 - 5 mm x 10 - 20 mm.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) The adaptable filtration apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said portal is substantially rectangular and has dimensions between 1 - 5 mm x 10 - 20 mm.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~limiting particles to a localized area of filter medium~~ collecting particulates in liquid or gas comprising the steps of:

providing an adaptable filtration cassette for collecting particulates in liquid or gas including housing having a central conduit, an inlet port, and an outlet port; a substantially planar filtration medium positioned within the housing substantially adjacent to the outlet port; and a removable substantially planar restrictor plate having a portal for localizing the utilized area of the filtration medium, the planar restrictor plate and the filtration medium capable of being positioned to abut one another for localizing the utilized area of a filter medium;

collecting particulates in a first mode by filtering a gas or liquid through the filter medium without said planar restrictor plate being positioned within said housing;
and

collecting particulates in a second mode by positioning [[a]] the restrictor plate so that it abuts and is anterior to a filter medium in relation to particle exposure to direct particles to a localized area of the filter medium[[]] and filtering a gas or liquid through the filter medium.[[]; and]]

analyzing the localized area of the filter medium.

10. (New) The method for collecting particulates in liquid or gas of Claim 9 wherein the filter medium is substantially round and the restrictor plate's portal is substantially rectangular.

11. (New) The method for collecting particulates in liquid or gas of Claim 9 wherein the filter medium is substantially round and has a diameter between 10 mm and 47 mm and the restrictor plate's portal is substantially rectangular and has dimensions between 1 - 5 mm x 10 - 20 mm.

12. (New) The method for collecting particulates in liquid or gas of Claim 9 wherein the restrictor plate includes more than one portal.

13. (New) The method for collecting particulates in liquid or gas of Claim 14 wherein the restrictor plate includes two portals, each of said two portals being substantially rectangular and having dimensions between 1 - 5 mm x 10 - 20 mm.